

REMARKS

Claims 21-22, 47-48, 53 and 54 are pending in the present application.

Rejection of under 35 USC 102(e)

Claims 21, 22, 47, 48, 53 and 54 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kamoto et al '183 (newly-cited). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants note that the effective date of the reference is September 22, 2003. Applicants' claimed priority date is November 15, 2002 (based on two corresponding Japanese priority applications). Applicants' claimed priority date thus antedates the effective date of the cited reference.

Verified translations of the two priority documents are submitted herewith.

In view of the above, the rejection is without basis and should be withdrawn.

The application is now in condition for allowance and an early indication of same earnestly is solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully

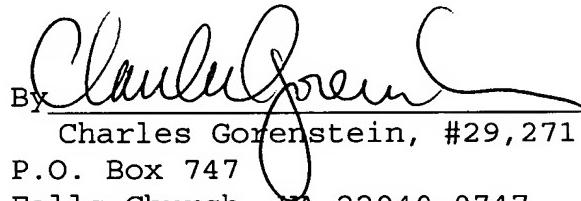
requested to contact James W. Hellwege (Reg. No. 28,808) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

A check in the amount of \$450.00 is attached as payment for the requested two month extension of time.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
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xw
CG/JWH/ej
1247-0525P

Attachments: Verified translations of priority documents